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Letter to Jennie Guiney, 1863 June 23

Patrick Guiney

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Camp at Aldie Va
June 23. 1862

My dear Jennie

We left Kelly's Ford June 13th and a few days before leaving that place, I wrote you a short note which in common with the whole contents of that particular mail bag was captured by the rebels. Since that time we have been so very busy flying about in so many directions that I have had no opportunity of writing to you. Indeed there has been no mail communication whatever with Washington of late and it is doubtful when I will be able to get this on the road home. I can fancy your feelings at this long intermission and you can fancy mine when I tell you that we all have been deprived of the "News from home" for the past two weeks.

We are, as you see, located at a place called Aldie - on the Bull Run range of Mountains. We have just returned from Middleburgh where we have been supporting the Cavalry who, by the way, have been doing all the fighting of late. Our turn will, on doubt, soon come. Lee is somewhere that's all I know of him. We occasionally meet small parties of rebels, but the main rebel army has kept out of sight thus far. Hooker is after Lee with a sharp stick and will keep prodding him until he fights a general engagement. My own opinion is that Lee wants Harper's Ferry as a Depot of supplies for his army which he intends to throw into Maryland & Pennsylvania. We can't have it. If the truth were known, Hooker, I think, would prefer that Lee should go in to the Loyal States. Our men would fight better there and final victory would certainly come to us. What's the devastation of a state to the

Conquest of Lee's Army?

At Middleburgh yesterday I saw a little child who was ^{very} look-
-in words and action - in all the little prouting, rolling eyes, the picture of Lollie. Now I did ^{think} the little rebel!
! Affairs in the Regiment stand the same as ever - I have my own way in everything here. But I have all the work to do. Franky is dull and indolent as usual. Mahan is gone off somewhere on "Sick Leave" Heaven knows when I'll see him again. Didn't the Governor give me a valuable Major? Doctor Sullivan is also off - on "Sick Leave". He is about as sick as I am - and I never was in better health. Glynn, Plunkett, Phalen and all others are well.

As soon as we get settled down again (Heaven knows when) I will write to my darling often. When the mail does come I expect a shower of letters from you.
Yours truly
Garrettsford
Quincy